

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG# 71B-2-5 Building Date: 1906, 1923

Building Name: St. James Chapel

Location: 13010 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

St. James Chapel is a front-gabled wood frame Gothic Revival style church structure with a lateral three-story bell tower. A balancing Parish Hall has been constructed parallel to it on the west, connected to the sanctuary by a one-story, one-bay hyphen. Entrance is into a gabled vestibule in the south gable front through a double door, painted red; each leaf has three panels. Above the door is a pointed-arch transom, and above the vestibule is a round window filled with stained glass. The long side elevations of the church are four bays long. The pointed-arch windows of the nave are filled with stained glass; those on the west side have been enclosed by the construction of an interior kitchen, and the fourth bay on the east elevation consists of a projecting bell tower. There is a pointed-arch opening in the belfry in each of the four faces of the tower at third level. The tower has a pyramidal roof, covered with dark asphalt shingle and surmounted by a plain wood cross. Parallel to the chapel on the west, and compatible in form, is a one-and-one-half-story parish hall; it is connected to the chapel by a one-story, one-bay hyphen.

Significance

St. James Chapel is a good example of early twentieth-century Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. It was built as a mission chapel of Holy Trinity Church at Collington for the growing Episcopal population of the railroad town of Bowie, established as Huntington in 1870. The Bowie Episcopal congregation was established in 1886, and began to meet regularly in private homes. In 1899 the St. James Ladies' Guild was formed, and began raising money for a chapel. In February 1906, two lots in Bowie were purchased by the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church, and the chapel was built that year by local builder Millard Schafer. Its handsome chestnut altar was carved by another local craftsman. In 1923 the Parish Hall was constructed west of and parallel to the chapel. Although the Parish Hall is a less substantial structure, it reflects and complements the original chapel with its compatible design. Together, the complex presents a good example of early twentieth-century Gothic Revival church architecture, and reflects its history as a social/cultural center of a developing community. St. James Chapel is a visible and attractive landmark in the center of this railroad community.

Area: 36,250 square feet

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. <sup>fc</sup> 71B-2-5  
Magi No. 71B-2-5  
DOE \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

**1. Name** (Indicate preferred name)

historic St. James Episcopal Church

and/ or common St. James Chapel

**2. Location**

street & number 13010 8<sup>th</sup> Street

city, town Bowie \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
__ district	__ public	<u>X</u> occupied	__ agriculture	__ museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	__ unoccupied	__ commercial	__ park
__ structure	__ both	__ work in progress	__ educational	__ private residence
__ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	__ entertainment	<u>X</u> religious
__ object	__ in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	__ government	__ scientific
	__ being considered	__ yes: unrestricted	__ industrial	__ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	__ no	__ military	__ other

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Convention of Protestant Episcopal Church, Washington Diocese

street & number Mt. St. Alban telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Washington state and zip code DC 20016

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2504

street & number Main Street folio 454

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites & District Plan

date 1992 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state X county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Planning & Preservation, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. <sup>pg-</sup>71B-2-5

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved Date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The St. James Chapel is a front-gabled wood frame Gothic Revival style chapel with a lateral three-story bell tower. A balancing parish hall has been constructed parallel to it on the west, connected to the church building by a one-story one-bay hyphen. The two-part Gothic Revival style structure stands on several of the original lots platted in 1870 for Huntington, now known as Bowie.

The nave is four bays by one, with entrance through a gabled vestibule in the south gable front. Entrance is through a double door, painted red; each leaf has three panels. Above the door is a pointed-arch transom, filled with three arched panes of clear glass. Above the vestibule in the gable front is a round window filled with stained glass. A flight of brick steps leads between evergreens to the door. The original German wood siding of the building is covered with white vinyl siding, except for the upper part of the south gable front which is sided with clipped-corner rectangular shingles. The foundation of the building is local iron-bearing sandstone, and the gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends.

The east long side of the church is four bays long, with the fourth (northernmost) bay consisting of a lateral projecting bell tower. The pointed-arch windows of the nave are filled with stained glass. There is a similar pointed-arch window in the first story of the bell tower. Both the first story and the flared second story of the tower are sheathed with vinyl siding; third level is sided with clipped-corner rectangular shingles. There is a pointed-arch opening in the belfry in each of the four faces of the tower at third level, enclosing a bell from the McShane foundry in Baltimore. The tower has a pyramidal roof, covered with dark asphalt shingle, and is surmounted by a plain wood cross. Built into the southeast corner of the church is a stone which reads: A 1906 D. Extending the length of the church by one bay is a low one-story sanctuary at the north (rear) gable end.

One enters the chapel through the small southerly narthex. Two banks of wooden pews are separated by a central aisle. The ceiling of the sanctuary is open to the ridge, with plain wood struts and braces supporting the upper wood surface. The heavy wooden altar, carved from chestnut by a local craftsman, exhibits the handsome carving of the traditional Christian symbols. Above the altar is a handsome round memorial window of stained glass. The four-bay side walls are lighted by pointed-arch windows filled with stained glass. The three remaining stained-glass windows on the west side (all memorials) have been enclosed by the construction of the modern kitchen, but are artificially lighted; the fourth (southernmost) window has been removed, and a door installed in its place, to allow access from the hyphen. That stained-glass window has been reinstalled in the south wall of the hyphen.

Parallel to the church on the west is a one-and-one-half-story gable-roof parish hall (1923), similar in plan to that of the original church building but with slightly lower pitch on the roof. The west building is three bays by four, with entry into a gabled vestibule in the central bay of the south gable front, through a double door painted red. The original (probably German) wood siding is

sheathed with white vinyl, except at the second level in the south gable end, where the siding consists of alternately lapped rectangular shingles. Centered in this upper section of the south gable end is a bank of four narrow six-pane windows. Other windows, flanking the entry vestibule and in the long sides of the building, are 6/6 double hung sash. The building rests on a concrete block foundation, and its gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle. It is connected to the chapel by a one-story one-bay-wide hyphen. One pointed-arch stained-glass window, moved from the southwesternmost location in the nave, lights the south facade of the hyphen.

East of the church on the other side of a paved parking area is a separate Sunday School building, Cornelius Hall (1964). It is a one-story front-gabled structure, three bays by six, constructed of concrete block painted white. The entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay south gable front through a red double door. Its gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle. ✓

The church complex comprises a group of lots fronting on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and including a small paved parking lot between the church and Cornelius Hall. The rest of the space is a grassy lawn, with shrubs and cedars framing the south entrances of the chapel and the parish hall. The immediate grounds of the church are enclosed by a low chain-link fence.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Survey No. PG# 71B-2-5

Period	Areas of Significance-check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906, 1923Builder/Architect Millard Schafercheck: Applicable Criteria  
and/or☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Applicable Exception

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Level of Significance:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. James Chapel is a good example of early twentieth-century Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. It was built as a mission chapel of Holy Trinity Church at Collington for the growing Episcopal population of the railroad town of Bowie (established as Huntington in 1870). Constructed by a prominent local builder, St. James Chapel is a visible and attractive landmark in the center of this railroad community.

The town of Huntington was established in 1870 at the junction of the Pope's Creek line of Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. The town grew quickly, with the railroad being the principal employer.<sup>1</sup> As early as 1872, the Vestry of Holy Trinity (the Episcopal church three miles south at Collington), considered spending \$1,000 to build a mission chapel at Huntington. This idea was abandoned in favor of Glenville (now Glenn Dale), the next little railroad community on the branch line into Washington; the first St. George's Chapel in Glenville was constructed in 1873.<sup>2</sup> The Bowie Episcopal congregation was established in 1886, and began to meet regularly in private homes. For many years, services were held in the Schwartz family home, a stone dwelling (built by Richard Peach in the eighteenth century) which had been preserved by the developers when they platted the town of Huntington around it.<sup>3</sup> In 1899 the St. James Ladies' Guild was formed, and began raising money for a chapel. In February 1906, two lots in Bowie were purchased by the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church for the chapel construction. Millard Schafer, a young carpenter who lived just north of Bowie, and who had assisted his father (John Schafer) in the construction of several Bowie houses, was contracted to build the chapel. The cornerstone was laid

<sup>1</sup> Prospectus of Huntington, 1870; Census of Prince George's County 1880, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> Vestry minutes, Holy Trinity Church (1872-1910) #M930, Maryland Archives.

in September 1906. The altar of St. James was carved by local carpenter, Albert Smith (cf. #71A-2).<sup>4</sup>

Millard Schafer can be credited with the construction of several other important buildings in the Bowie area during the early years of the twentieth century, including the following fine Colonial Revival houses: Spafield in 1909, Cedar Hill in 1916, the Boyden House in 1917 and Boxlee in 1923.<sup>5</sup>

St. James Chapel has been altered over the years since its construction. In 1923 the parish hall was constructed west of and parallel to the chapel. Although the parish hall is a less substantial structure, it reflects and complements the original structure with its compatible design. It was connected to the original building by a low hyphen, allowing entrance to the chapel in the southernmost bay of the west side wall. The opening in this southwesterly bay was extended to form a door, and the stained glass window originally in that location was reinstalled in the south front of the hyphen. Years later, in the 1960s, the space between the church and the parish hall (north of the hyphen) was enclosed to create a kitchen space. Inside this kitchen space, the original German wood siding of the west wall of the church is visible and well preserved. In the mid 1970s, the wood siding of the rest of the church building was sheathed with white vinyl siding.

With the development of the Levitt community of Belair just south of Bowie and its inclusion within the corporate limits, the congregation of St. James grew. In 1964 the Vestry purchased the Sansbury property which adjoined the Chapel on the east. The old Sansbury house which fronts on 7<sup>th</sup> Street became St. James Rectory ( #71B-2-6), and the garage behind it (closer to 8<sup>th</sup> Street) was renovated for church-related activities. In 1977, the renovated garage was destroyed by fire, and the present concrete-block Sunday School building was constructed in 1980 in its place. This Sunday School building is named Cornelius Hall, in honor of Nannie Cornelius; it was in her home that Sunday School meetings were first held in the late 1880's, and her husband, Thomas Cornelius, was a member of Holy Trinity Vestry at the time of the construction of St. James Chapel in 1906.<sup>6</sup>

Although there have been alterations to the exterior of the church (in particular, the vinyl siding), the interior is essentially unchanged, and the exterior appearance reflects the original form of the church. Joined with the compatibly configured parish hall, St. James Chapel stands today as a good example of early twentieth-century Gothic Revival church architecture, and reflects its history as a social/cultural center of a developing community. It is an important visual feature in the railroad town of Bowie.

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<sup>4</sup>Prince George's County Deed #34:88; interview with St. James Chapel historian, 1985 and 2000. (Cf. also other Schafer buildings #70-39, #71A-8, and #71B-2-2.)

<sup>5</sup> See Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms #70-21, 70-39, 71A-8, 71A-34 and 71B-2-6.

<sup>6</sup> Prince Georges's County Deed #3067:490; Interview with St. James Chapel historian, 1986 and 2000.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Survey No. PG #71B-2-5

Cf. Notes Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage at nominated property 36 2500 sq. ft.

Tax Map, Block 16 lots 45-59

Quadrangle name Laurel

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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	Zone	Easting		Northing		Zone	Easting		Zone	Easting		Northing			
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Planning and Preservation, M-NCPPC date August 1986, March 2000

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, I 974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust

R-R

WILLIAM T  
HUBBERT  
5373/083  
4.80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL BOHIE

71B-2-1

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-1-8

R-55

C-C

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

I-1

NEW JERSEY  
STEEL CORP.  
5545/680

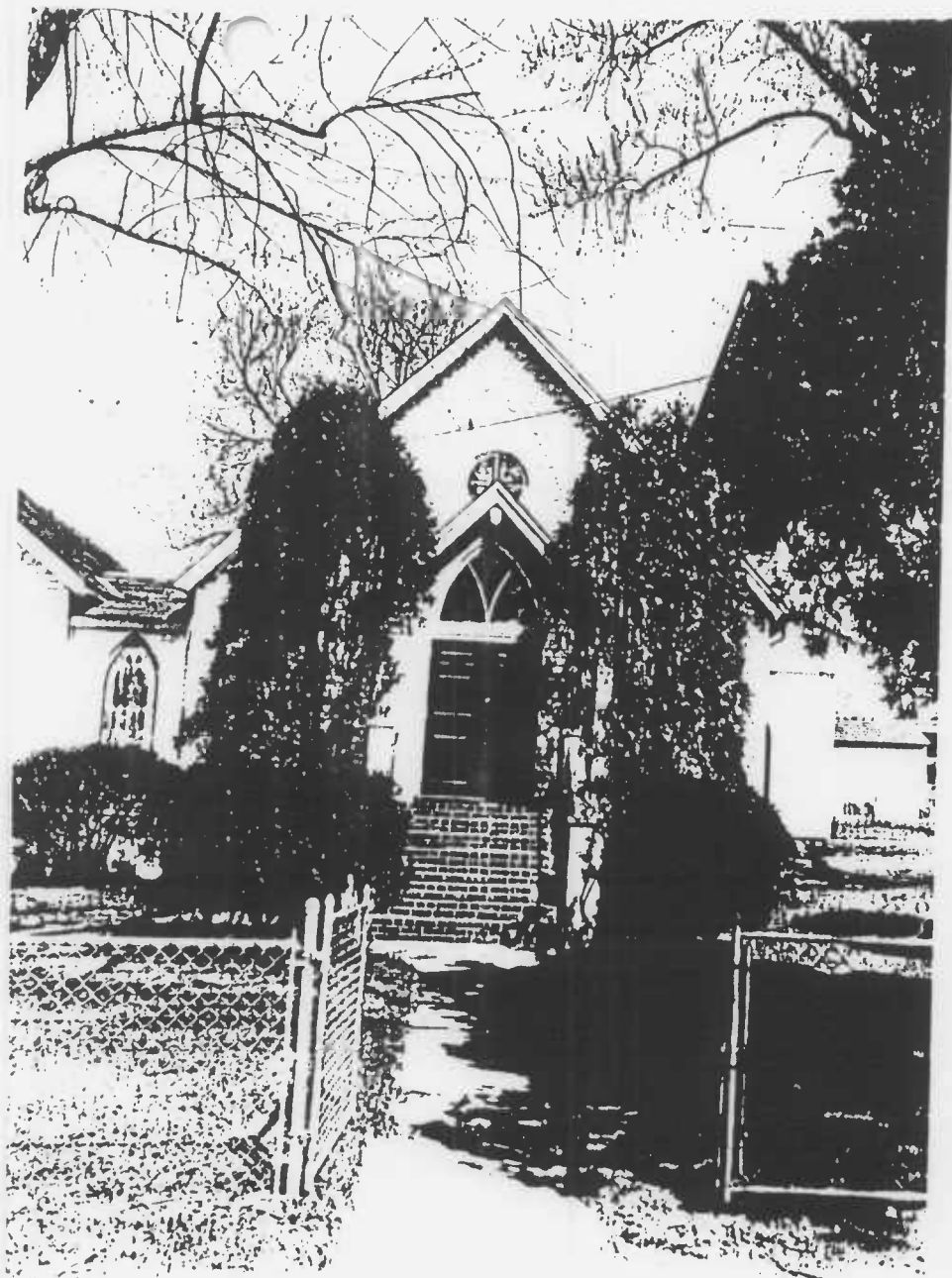
NANCY BROWN  
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

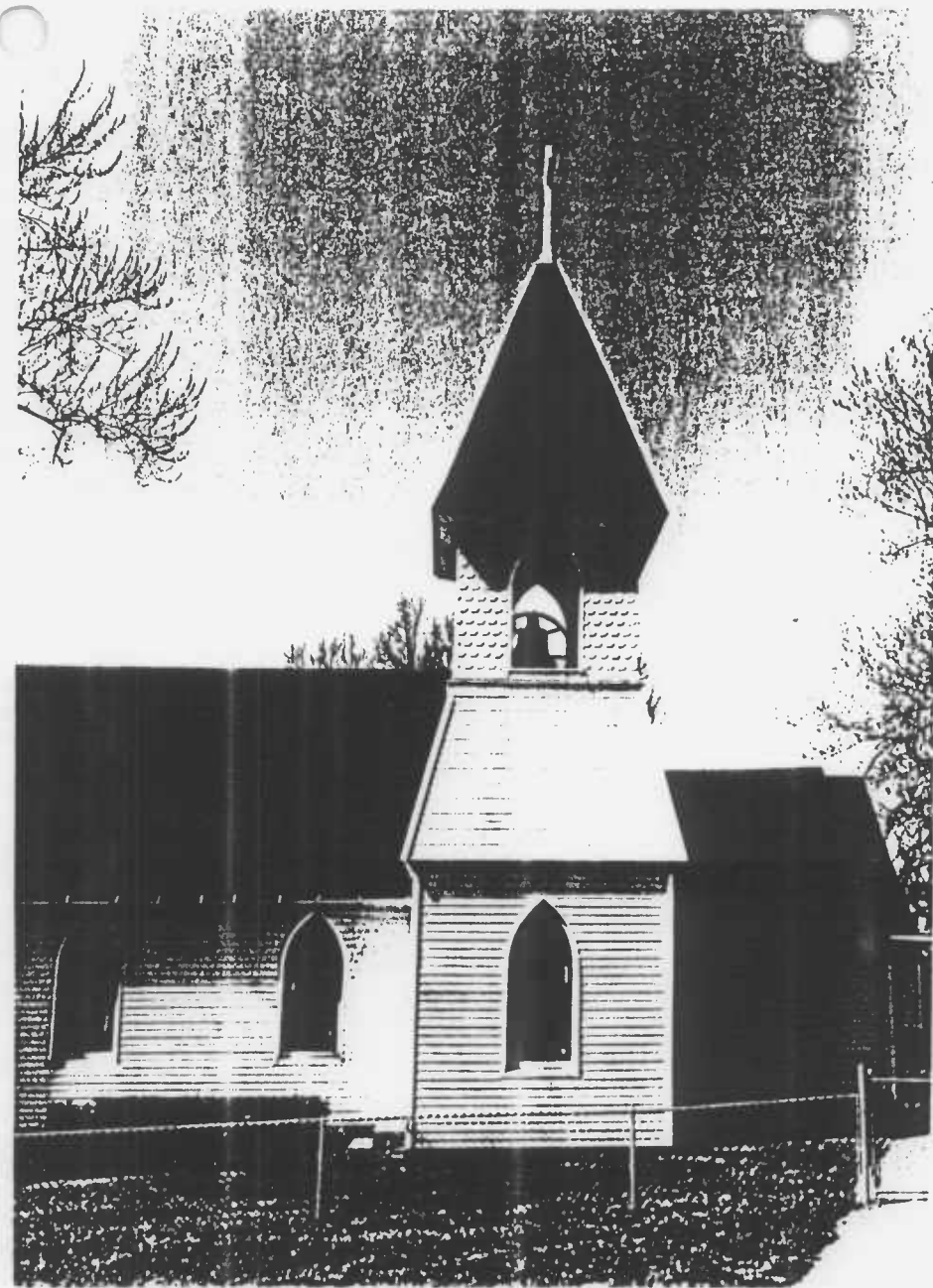
KLINE SUB



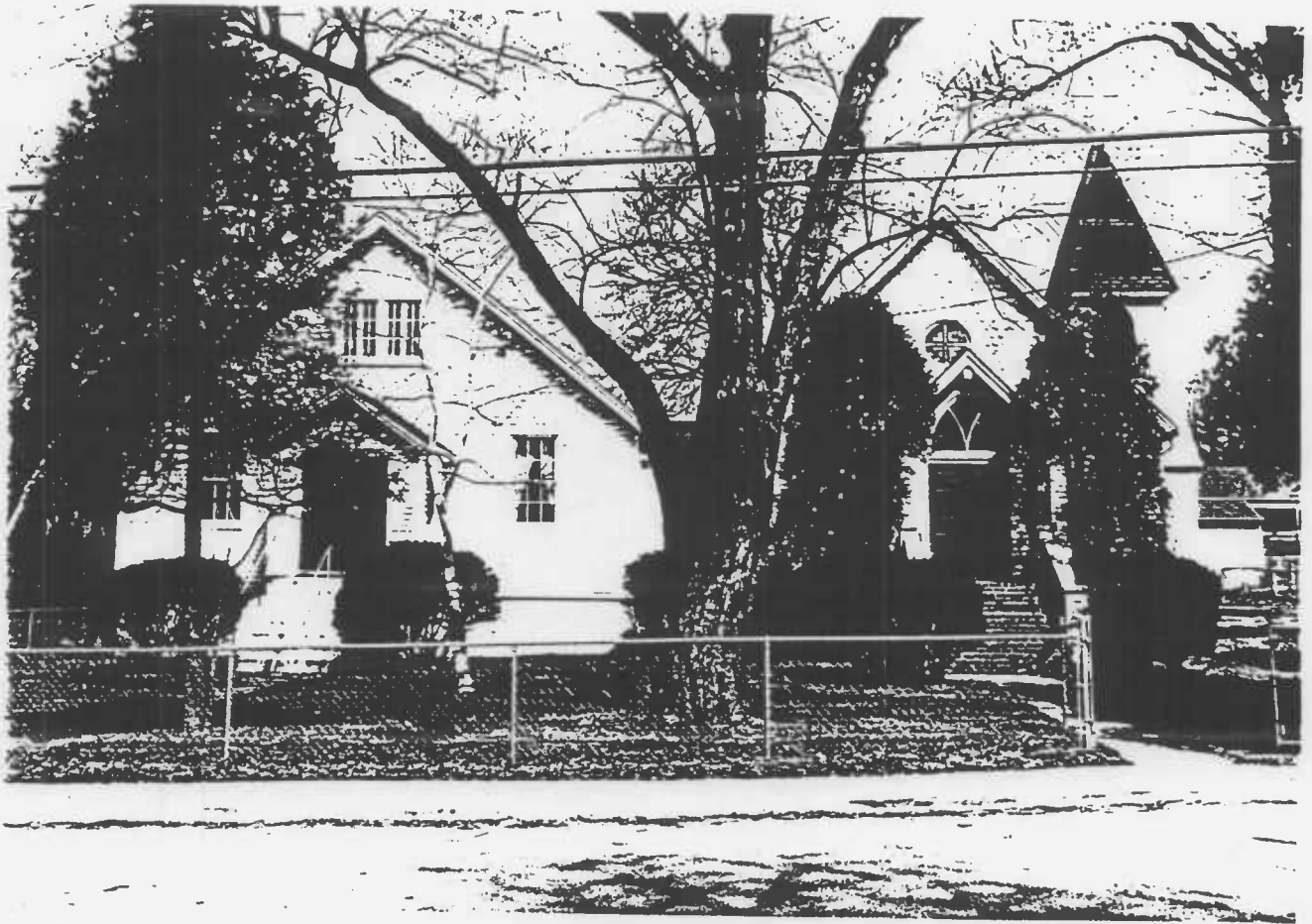


*Chapel - south entrance*

PG: 71B-2-5



*East*



South: Parish Hall

Chapel



R-R

WILLIAM T  
HUBBERT  
5373/083  
480A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL BOHIE RD

71B-2-1

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-2-2

C-C

71B-2-6

R-55

C-C

71B-2-4

71B-2-3

71B-13

I-1

NEW JERSEY  
STEEL CORP.  
5545/680

NANCY BROWN  
4182/813

50A  
P.215

71B-12

R-R

KLINE SUB

PG 71B-2-5

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-5 Building Date: 1906  
Building Name: St. James Chapel  
Location: 13010 8th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description:

St. James Chapel is a front-gabled meeting-house-style church structure with a lateral three-story bell tower. A modern balancing Parish Hall has been constructed parallel to it on the west, connected to the church building by a one-story one-bay hyphen. The two-part Gothic Revival style structure stands on several of the original lots platted in 1870 for Huntington, now known as Bowie. Entrance is into a gabled vestibule in the south gabled through a double door, painted red; each leaf has three panels. Above the door is a pointed-arch transom. Above the vestibule in the gable end is a round window filled with stained glass. The south long side of the church is four bays long, with the fourth bay consisting of a lateral projecting bell tower. The pointed-arch windows of the main building are filled with stained glass. There is a pointed-arch opening in the belfry in each of the four faces of the tower at third level. The tower has a pyramidal roof, covered with dark asphalt shingle and surmounted by a plain cross.

Significance

St. James Chapel is an excellent example of turn-of-this-century Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. It was built as a mission chapel of Holy Trinity Church at Collington for the growing Episcopal population of the railroad town of Bowie (established as Huntington in 1870). Constructed by a prominent local builder, Millard Schaffer, St. James Chapel is a visible and attractive landmark in the center of this railroad community. The Bowie Episcopal congregation was established in 1886, and began to meet regularly in individual houses. In 1899 the St. James Ladies' Guild was formed, and began raising money for a chapel. In February 1906, two lots in Bowie were purchased by the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church for the chapel construction. St. James Chapel has been altered over the years since its construction; in 1923 the Parish Hall was constructed west of and parallel to the chapel. Although the Parish Hall is a less substantial structure, it reflects and complements the original structure with its compatible design. It stands today as a fine example of early twentieth century Gothic Revival architecture, and a social/cultural center of a developing community. It is an important visual feature in the railroad town of Bowie.

Acreage: 11,250 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. James Episcopal Church

and/or common St. James Chapel

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 13010 8th Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bowie \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's County

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Convention of Protestant Episcopal Church, Washington Diocese

street &amp; number Mt. St. Alban telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20016

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2504

street &amp; number Main Street folio 454

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-25

**Condition**

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. James Chapel is a front-gabled meeting-house-style church structure with a lateral three-story bell tower. A modern balancing Parish Hall has been constructed parallel to it on the west, connected to the church building by a one-story one-bay hyphen. The two-part Gothic Revival style structure stands on several of the original lots platted in 1870 for Huntington, now known as Bowie.

The nave is four bays by one, with entrance through a gabled vestibule in the south gable end. Entrance is through a double door, painted red; each leaf has three panels. Above the door is a pointed-arch transom, filled with three arched panes of clear glass. Above the vestibule in the gable end is a round window filled with stained glass. A flight of brick steps leads between evergreens to the door. Siding of the building is horizontal vinyl board, except for the upper part of the south gable end which is sided with clipped-corner rectangular shingles. The foundation of the building is of local iron-bearing stone, and the gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends.

The south long side of the church is four bays long, with the fourth bay consisting of a lateral projecting bell tower. The pointed-arch windows of the main building are filled with stained glass. There is a similar pointed-arch window in the first story of the bell tower. Both the first story and the flared second story of the tower are sided with plain horizontal vinyl board; third level is sided with clipped-corner rectangular shingles. There is a pointed-arch opening in the belfry in each of the four faces of the tower at third level. The tower has a pyramidal roof, covered with dark asphalt shingle and surmounted by a plain cross. Built into the southeast corner of the church is a corner stone which reads: A 1906 D. Extending the length of the church by one bay is a low one-story sanctuary at the north gable end.

Parallel to the church on the west is a one-and-one-half story gable-roof Parish Hall (1923), similar in plan to that of the original church building but with slightly lower pitch to the roof. The west building is three bays by four bays with entry into a gabled vestibule in the central bay of the south gable end, through a double door painted red. Siding is horizontal vinyl board, except at second level in the south gable end, where the siding consists of alternately lapped rectangular shingles. Centered in this upper section of the south gable end is a bank of four six-pane windows. Other windows, flanking the entry vestibule and in the long sides of the building, are 6/6 double hung sash. The building rests on a concrete block foundation, and its gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle. It is connected to the chapel by a one-story one-bay-wide hyphen. There is a single pointed-arch window, filled with stained glass, in the south facade of the hyphen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-5

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906, 1923

Builder/Architect Millard Schaffer

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. James Chapel is an excellent example of turn-of-this-century Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. It was built as a mission chapel of Holy Trinity Church at Collington for the growing Episcopal population of the railroad town of Bowie (established as Huntington in 1870). Constructed by a prominent local builder, St. James Chapel is a visible and attractive landmark in the center of this railroad community.

The town of Huntington was established in 1870 at the junction of the Popes Creek line of Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. The town grew quickly, with the railroad being the principal employer.<sup>1</sup> As early as 1872, the Vestry of Holy Trinity (the Episcopal church three miles south at Collington) considered spending \$1,000 to build a mission chapel in Huntington. This idea was abandoned in favor of Glenville (now Glenn Dale), the next little railroad community on the branch line into Washington; St. George's Chapel in Glenville was constructed in 1873.<sup>2</sup> The Bowie Episcopal congregation was established in 1886, and began to meet regularly in individual houses. For many years, services were held in the Schwartz family home, a stone dwelling (built by Richard Peach in the eighteenth century) which had been preserved by the developers when they platted the town of Huntington around it.<sup>3</sup> In 1899 the St. James Ladies' Guild was formed, and began raising money for a chapel. In February 1906, two lots in Bowie were purchased by the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church for the chapel construction. Millard Schaffer, a young carpenter who lived just north of Bowie, and who had assisted his father (John Schaffer) in the construction of several Bowie houses, was contracted to build the chapel. The cornerstone was laid in September 1906. The altar of St. James was carved by local carpenter, Albert Smith (cf. #71A-2).<sup>4</sup>

St. James Chapel has been altered over the years since its construction. In 1923 the Parish Hall was constructed west of and parallel to the chapel. Although the Parish Hall is a less substantial structure, it reflects and complements the original structure with its compatible design. It is now connected to the original building by a hyphen which contains a kitchen space.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-5

Cf. Notes Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 11,250 sq. ft.

Tax Map, Block 16, lots 46-49

Quadrangle name Laurel, Section I

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Prince George's Historic Preservation  
Commissiondate August 1986street & number c/o Co. Planning MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



## #7 (Continued)

East of the church on the other side of a paved parking area is a separate Sunday school building, Cornelius Hall (1964). It is a one-story front-gabled structure, three bays by six bays, constructed of concrete block painted white. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay south gable end through a red double door. Its gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingle.

## #8 (Continued)

With the development of the Levitt community of Belair, just south of Bowie and its inclusion within the corporate limits, the congregation of St. James grew. In 1964 the Vestry purchased the Sansbury property which adjoined the Chapel on the east. The old Sansbury house which fronts on 7th Street became St. James Rectory (cf. #71B-2-6), and the garage behind it (closer to 8th Street) was renovated for church-related activities. Within a short time, the newly renovated garage was destroyed by fire, and the present concrete-block Sunday School building was constructed in its place. This Sunday school building is named Cornelius Hall, in honor of Nannie Cornelius; it was in her home that Sunday school meetings were first held in the late 1880's, and her husband, Thomas Cornelius, was a member of Holy Trinity Vestry at the time of the construction of St. James Chapel in 1906.<sup>5</sup>

In recent years the chapel has been repaired and re-sided. It stands today as a fine example of early twentieth century Gothic Revival architecture, and a social/cultural center of a developing community. It is an important visual feature in the railroad town of Bowie.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Prospectus of Huntington, 1870; Census of Prince George's County 1880, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> Vestry minutes, Holy Trinity Church (1872-1910) #M930, Maryland Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid; Prospectus of Huntington, 1870.

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Deed #34:88; interview with St. James chapel historian, 1985 and 1986. (Cf. also other Schaffer buildings #70-39, #71A-8, and #71B-2-2).

<sup>5</sup> Prince George's County Deed #3067:490; Interview with St. James Chapel historian, summer 1986.

R-R  
WILLIAM T HUBBERT  
5373 / 083  
4 80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL - BONIE

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

8899

C-C

71B-2-2

R-55

C-C

71B-2-4

71B-2-3

71B-13

R-R

I-1

NEW JERSEY  
STEEL CORP.  
5545/680

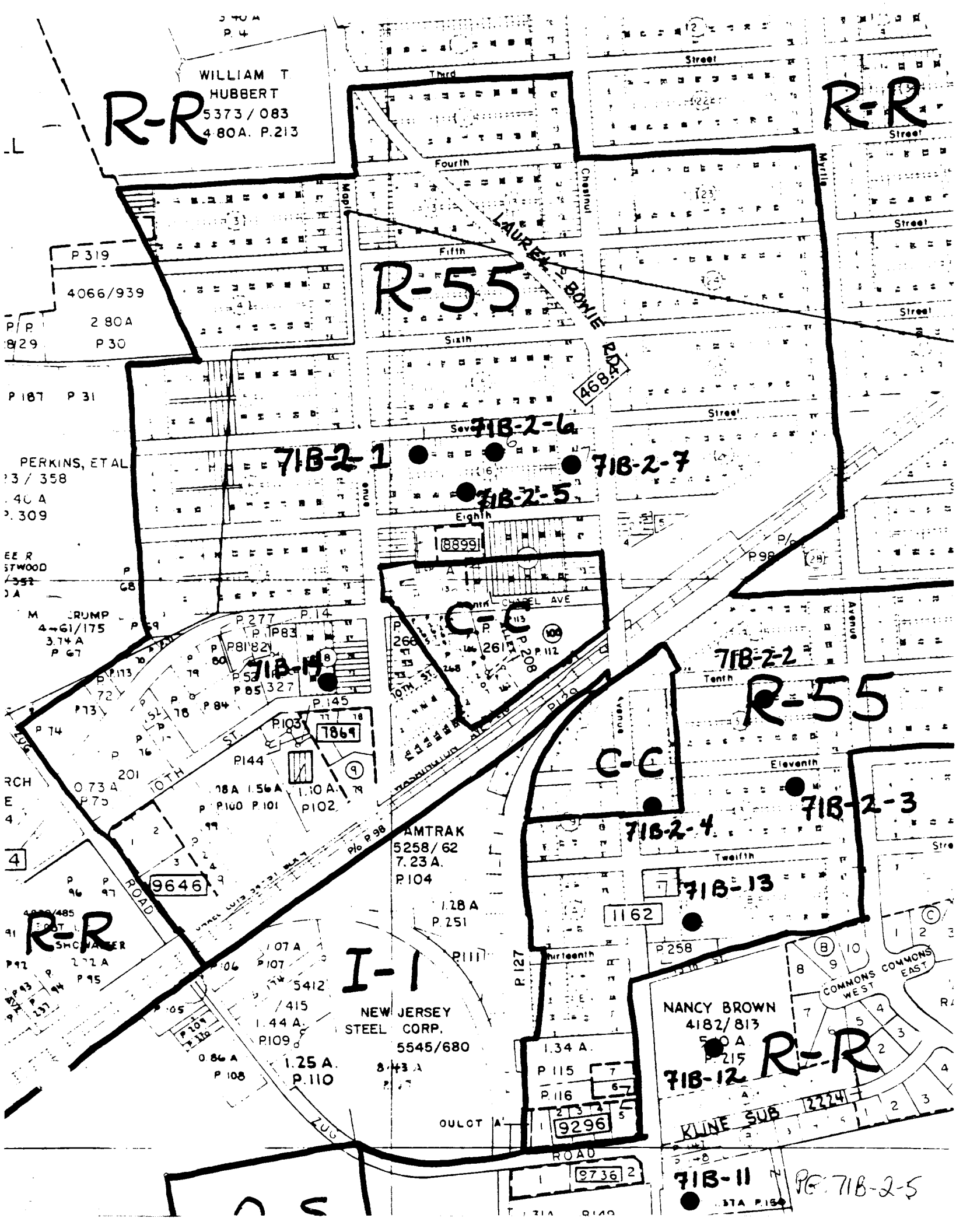
NANCY BROWN  
4182/813  
500 A.  
P.215

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

PG 71B-2-5





PG#71B-2-5

St. James Chapel  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-5

St. James Chapel  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD





PG#71B-2-5

St. James Chapel  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-5

St. James Chapel  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Tower from east  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-5

St. James Chapel  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
South detail  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD